

Minutes of a Meeting of the Property and Investments Executive Sub-Committee held in the JMR, The Deane House, Taunton, on Wednesday, 8 May 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Bill Revans (Chair)
Cllr Liz Leyshon
Cllr Ros Wyke

Cllr Richard Wilkins
Cllr Sarah Wakefield

In attendance:

Cllr Bob Filmer
Cllr Brian Smedley

Cllr David Fothergill

Other Members present remotely:

Cllr Mandy Chilcott
Cllr Dixie Darch
Cllr John Hunt
Cllr Gill Slocombe
Cllr David Woan

Cllr Shane Collins
Cllr Andy Hadley
Cllr Sue Osborne
Cllr Claire Sully
Cllr Gwil Wren

1 Apologies for Absence - Agenda Item 1

No apologies were received.

2 Declarations of Interest - Agenda Item 2

Councillors present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor of a Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR	CITY, TOWN AND/OR PARISH COUNCIL
Richard Wilkins	Curry Rivel Parish Council
Ros Wyke	Westbury-sub-Mendip Parish Council

3 Public Question Time - Agenda Item 3

Public Questions were received from:-

Alison Morgan, who made the following submission:

In the light of the ruling of the International Court of Justice on 26 January 2024, and its warning against complicity in plausible genocide, Somerset Council had a duty to ensure that Elbit Systems (UK), its tenant at Aztec West were categorically not

involved in the supply of weapons or weapons components to the Israeli military. Following the Council's meeting with Elbit Systems (UK) staff, as a resident of Somerset, I would like the Council to provide me with categorical evidence that Elbit Systems (UK) and its UK subsidiaries do not supply any products to Israel.

4 Report on tasks from the April 2024 Sub-Committee Meeting - Agenda Item 4

The Service Director for Strategic Asset Management, Oliver Woodhams and the Head of Commercial Investments, Robert Orrett, introduced the report which provided members with an update from the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee and detailed how officers had progressed with the identified actions and reported back on the tasks set.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the following:-

- a) The case for applying exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore treated the attached confidential Appendix in confidence, as it contained commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing that information.
- b) To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
- c) To approve the recommendations set out in the confidential Appendix A.

5 Investment Properties Disposal - Agenda Item 5

The Service Director for Strategic Asset Management, Oliver Woodhams and the Head of Commercial Investments, Robert Orrett, introduced the report which provided members with a briefing on individual commercial investment assets, recommended the actions on disposals, and sought approval to proceed with the sales subject to meeting or exceeding a minimum price, and advised the Sub-Committee on the risks identified for the disposals and the mitigation measures.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, the Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the following:-

- a) The case for applying exempt information provision as set out in the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and therefore treated the attached confidential Appendix in confidence, as it contained commercially sensitive information, and as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing that information.
- b) To consider passing a resolution under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972: Reason: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

- c) To approve the recommendations set out in the confidential Appendix A.
- d) To delegate authority to make all necessary arrangements and agreements to conclude the sales by the 31 March 2025 to the Service Director for Strategic Assets Management in consultation with the Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets.

(The meeting ended at 3.20 pm)

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CHAIR